

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated October 22, 2003 stating that Claims 14 and 16 have wrong status identifiers. The status identifiers of Claims 14 and 16 have been replaced with "Previously Presented".

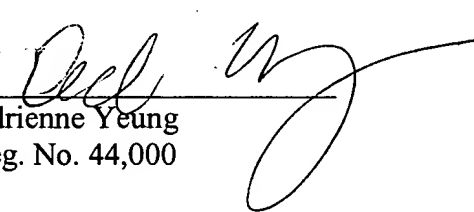
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: January 27, 2004


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